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as modifying social life that is the object of the study. The Church as the historic institution embodying these ideals is kept constantly before the mind and its influence in the development of true democracy is traced with marked insight and discrimination. The book exhibits no sectarian interest. It makes no impression of special pleading. It sketches broadly some of the great epochs of Christian history, seeking to show how the principle of evolution applies in the development of the social influence of the Church.

The book is timely. It calls back to a sane view of the situation those both within and without the Church who, impatient with her tardy response to the social needs of the present times, are all too ready to ignore the Church as a social factor of potential value. This is really the height of folly and no one can read Professor Smith's thoughtful book without realizing the great service to the cause of democracy which the Christian Church has rendered and the unique function she is still fitted to perform in securing and maintaining the spiritual values of social life. The book may be specially commended to social workers who are convinced that the Church is hopelessly out of sympathy with modern movements of thought and action and not worthy of being taken into serious consideration as an ally in the task of social reconstruction.

GAYLORD S. WHITE.

New York.

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STRAUS, OSCAR S. *The American Spirit*. Pp. viii, 379. Price, \$2.00. New York: Century Company, 1913.

The two dozen addresses and essays which make up this book were delivered on various noteworthy occasions during the past fifteen years, or published during that time in *The North American Review* and *The Forum*. They treat of international politics, commercial diplomacy, and Judaism in America, and contain tributes to a half-dozen social leaders of the United States, England and Japan. An address on the anniversary of Washington's Birthday, 1912, entitled "The American Spirit," gives the title and the keynote of the book. It cites, as the seven great achievements in our history, the establishment of religious liberty, political independence, and a united republic under a written constitution, the abolition of negro slavery and the preservation of the Union, the vitalization of the principles of social justice, and the leadership of the world along the path of international arbitration. The author's experience in mercantile life and as Secretary of Commerce and Labor under President Roosevelt causes him to admit that this is a predominantly commercial and industrial age; but he insists that its forces may be subordinated to our democratic institutions in such manner that they shall not narrow, but shall widen, the highways of opportunity for the average man, woman and child of this and the coming generations. His long and successful service as minister and ambassador to Turkey leaves him with the optimistic belief that American diplomacy, in spite of the dollar-mark which is usually written before it, is dominated by the spirit of liberty, humanity and morality. Whether the reader of this book is able or not to agree entirely with its author's plan

for realizing social justice in our national life, or with his conclusions as to our international relations, he cannot fail to be instructed and stimulated by the cogent thought and crisp expression of its distinguished and scholarly author.

WM. I. HULL.

*Swarthmore College.*

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WAGNER, H. *With the Victorious Bulgarians*. Pp. xii, 273. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1913.

In the closing page of this book, Lieutenant Wagner states that it "is largely based upon the news originally published in a daily paper and for this very reason can make no claim to be anything like a final and complete record."

In this appraisal of his book, most informed readers will concur, but it is nevertheless very readable.

War is hell, and everything is still fair in war—at least. That the Bulgarian government should have retained Lieutenant Wagner to send out misleading reports as to the conduct of the war, and the maneuvers was thoroughly explicable and probably justifiable. Nor is it surprising that Lieutenant Wagner should be able to report (on page 259) that after confessing everything to Premier Gueshov, he "received from His Excellency a general absolution."

Many parts of the book seem overdrawn—for instance the statement, "The tramways were no longer working, or women were acting as conductors" in Sofia. When the writer was there in November and in December they were regularly operated by men, nor, I was informed, had there been any interruption of such service. The accuracy of the statements as to army maneuvers, etc., can be confirmed only by an examination of official records. The book was written before the war was concluded, even before Adrianople fell. The author makes it clear, however, that the war was won and so justifies the term victorious, even had Adrianople not capitulated.

His analysis of the causes of the war is good, even though he underestimates the economic reasons. He slurs the mistakes of the Bulgarians, and so weakens his case, for to admit the occasional error of subordinates could not detract from the consummate ability of General Savoff and nearly all of the officers of first and lower rank. The marvelous achievement of the victorious Bulgarians in war, and in their preparation for war, is well depicted, but little reference even is made to their phenomenal, economic and agricultural and industrial progress during the past quarter century which made possible the financing of this war which the combined financial force of the world was exerted to prevent.

The cruel and un-Christian conduct of the so-called Christian powers of Europe who made necessary this needless war, is not mentioned or at best only in veiled language.

The book is readable but a more appropriate title would be, "The War of the Victorious Bulgarians."

BENJAMIN MARSH.

*New York.*